

March 13, 2013

**ITEM NO. B5**

**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GROWING POWER, INC.  
TO PROVIDE A YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN URBAN AGRICULTURE**

**To the Honorable Board of Commissioners:**

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) or his designee to enter into a contract with Growing Power, Inc. (“Growing Power”) to provide a youth development program in urban agriculture at Altgeld Gardens in an amount not-to-exceed \$349,597 for a two-year base period, with two (2) additional one-year options.

The Executive Vice President (“EVP”) of Resident Services, the Office of the General Counsel and the Department of Procurement and Contracts have completed all necessary due diligence to support the submission of this initiative and recommend the approval of this item accordingly.

**CORPORATE GOAL**

*The proposed program supports CHA’s corporate goals of investing in CHA youth by providing services and supports and empowering them for success in the global economy.*

**FUNDING:** CHA General Fund

**SOLICITATION SUMMARY**

**Vendor:**

Growing Power, Inc.  
3333 South Iron Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60608

**Contract Type:** Professional Services  
**Base Contract Amount:** \$349,597  
**Base Contract Period:** Two-Year Base Term  
**Option Period:** 2 One-Year Options  
**Publication(s):** Chicago Sun Times, Chicago Defender, Extra  
**Vendor List:** 110  
**Pick-up List:** 20

**Solicitation Release Date:** 10/26/2012  
**Days Advertised:** 3 Days  
**Addendum:** N/A  
**Pre-Bid/Proposal Date:** 11/6/2012  
**Solicitation Due Date:** 12/4/2012

**Assist Agencies:** 64  
**Respondents:** 3

**M/W/DBE Participation:**

**Waiver - Approved**

**Section 3:**

**Hiring:** 1 (#) Subcontracting      (\$)

**Other Economic Opportunities:** Urban Agriculture Adult Mentorship Opportunities

## **GENERAL BACKGROUND**

CHA's Resident Services Division is charged with engaging youth in out-of-school time and summer activities to support their development. Among these programs are initiatives that provide employment and training programs for youth. One of these initiatives, launched in 2010, was the installation of an urban farm within the Altgeld Gardens community. Since inception, the farm has supported employment and training programs for more than 400 youth and adults, providing valuable skills training while increasing the community's access to healthy food.

The proposed program will provide a year round youth program, serving a minimum of 150 youth per year (300 over the two-year base term) from the Altgeld Gardens community. The primary components of the program will include, but not be limited to: employment skills development, farm work, life skills development, culinary and nutrition education and community building and engagement. The ultimate intent of the youth agriculture project is to enhance the existing urban farm in a way that will 1) provide youth with year-round educational and training opportunities, 2) engage families in the community, and 3) supply easy access to affordable and nutritious food.

Growing Power is a national nonprofit organization that focuses on supporting people of diverse backgrounds and environments by providing access to healthy, high-quality, safe and affordable food for people in the community. This mission is implemented through on-the-ground, hands-on training of youth and adults to take ownership of the garden and engage the community to do the same. Growing Power's youth employment training programs educate youth on sustainable urban agriculture while providing transferrable employment and life skills. It is through this existing program model that Growing Power will successfully serve youth at Altgeld Gardens.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with all applicable Chicago Housing Authority board policies and all applicable federal (HUD) procurement laws.

The EVP of Resident Services concurs with the recommendation to enter into a contract with Growing Power to provide a youth development program at Altgeld Gardens.

The CEO/President recommends the approval to enter into a contract with Growing Power, Inc. to provide a youth development program in Urban Agriculture in an amount not-to-exceed \$349,597 for a two-year base period, with two (2) additional one-year options.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2013-CHA-17**

**WHEREAS,** the Board of Commissioners has reviewed the Board Letter dated March 13, 2013, entitled "AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GROWING POWER, INC. TO PROVIDE A YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN URBAN AGRICULTURE";

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY**

**THAT** the Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to enter into a contract with Growing Power, Inc. to provide a youth development program in urban agriculture in an amount not-to-exceed \$349,597 for a two-year base period, with two (2) additional one-year options.

This award is subject to the Contractor's compliance with the CHA's MBE/WBE/DBE, Section 3 and insurance requirements.

